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EXAMINER

DODDS, HAROLD E

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2167

DATE MAILED: 10/05/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/692,885

Applicant(s)

SESHADRI ET AL.

Examiner

Harold E. Dodds, Jr.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 June 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-37 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-37 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 8/19/04, 3/25/05.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1, 2, 5-16, 18, 21, and 23-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Knutson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,870,746).

3. Knutson anticipates independent claim 1 by the following:

“...a data storage component...” at col. 7, lines 53-54.

“...a plurality of folders comprising links to particular data files stored in the data storage component...” at col. 8, lines 1-6, col. 44, lines 13-14, col. 36, lines 30-32, and col. 7, lines 53-54.

“...the content of the folders controlled at least in part...” at col. 43, lines 66-67, col. 8, lines 1-6, and col. 45, lines 30-31.

“...by end-user specified preferences...” at col. 62, lines 36-37 and col. 8, lines 11-13.

“...the folders include any type of link collection defined by a set of relationships...” at col. 8, lines 1-6, col. 44, lines 13-14, and col. 12, lines 58-63.

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4. As per claim 18, the "...a data storage component..." is taught by Knutson at col. 7, lines 53-54, the "...plurality of data containers storing pointers to sections of data..." is taught by Knutson at col. 12, lines 9-12, col. 28, lines 63-67, and col. 62, lines 26-28, the "...stored on the data storage component..." is taught by Knutson at col. 7, lines 53-54, and the "...content of the data containers being controlled by end-user programs..." is taught by Knutson at col. 43, lines 66-67, col. 12, lines 9-12, col. 45, lines 30-31, and col. 4, lines 48-49.

5. As per claim 2, the "...data storage component stores schematized data..." is taught by Knutson at col. 7, lines 53-54 and col. 7, lines 11-13.

6. As per claim 5, the "...preferences are constructed automatically based on inferences..." is taught by Knutson at col. 8, lines 11-13, col. 20, lines 19-21, and col. 30, lines 55-58 and the "...made from user activity..." is taught by Knutson at col. 7, lines 2-4 and col. 6, lines 51-55.

7. As per claim 6, the "...preferences specify a plurality of conditions and actions..." is taught by Knutson at col. 8, lines 11-13, col. 7, lines 16-19, and col. 22, lines 22-31.

8. As per claim 7, the "...one of the conditions relates to user context..." is taught by Knutson at col. 7, lines 16-19 and col. 5, lines 25-27.

For claim 7, the term "background" is used to suggest the term context".

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9. As per claim 8, the "...preferences specified in accordance with a developer specified schema..." is taught by Knutson at col. 8, lines 11-13, col. 5, lines 56-59, col. 3, lines 48-53, and col. 7, lines 11-13.

For claim 8, the term "analyst" is used to suggest the term "developer".

10. As per claim 9, the "...preferences and schema are stored in tables in the data storage component..." is taught by Knutson at col. 8, lines 11-13, col. 7, lines 11-13, col. 13, lines 8-9, and col. 7, lines 53-54.

11. As per claim 10, the "...preferences are evaluated upon the occurrence of an event..." is taught by Knutson at col. 8, lines 11-13, col. 51, lines 18-19, and col. 44, lines 62-64.

12. As per claim 11, the "...preferences are evaluated in a set oriented fashion utilizing a query language..." is taught by Knutson at col. 8, lines 11-163, col. 51, lines 18-19, and col. 6, lines 32-36.

13. As per claim 12, the "...one or more actions are executed in accordance with a preference..." is taught by Knutson at col. 22, lines 22-31, col. 40, lines 63-65, and col. 8, lines 11-13
and the "...when the preference conditions are satisfied..." is taught by Knutson at col. 8, lines 11-13 and col. 61, col. 17-19.

14. As per claim 13, the "...action comprises creating a link in a folder..." is taught by Knutson at col. 22, lines 22-31, col. 7, lines 11-13, col. 44, lines 13-14, and col. 8, lines 1-6.

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15. As per claim 14, the "...action comprises excluding a link from a folder..." is taught by Knutson at col. 22, lines 22-31, col. 32, lines 15-17, col. 44, lines 13-14, and col. 8, lines 1-6.

For claim 14, the term "remove" is used to suggest the term "exclude".

16. As per claim 15, the "...action comprises deleting a link in one folder..." is taught by Knutson at col. 22, lines 22-31, col. 32, lines 15-17, col. 44, lines 13-14, and col. 8, lines 1-6

and the "...and recreating a link in another folder..." is taught by Knutson at col. 7, lines 11-13, col. 44, lines 13-14, and col. 8, lines 1-6.

17. As per claims 16 and 26, the "...action comprises notifying the user..." is taught by Knutson at col. 22, lines 22-31 and col. 3, lines 38-39.

18. As per claim 21, the "...end-user programs are composed using a graphical user interface..." is taught by Knutson at col. 6, lines 56-59, col. 41, lines 66-67, and col. 5, lines 56-59.

For claim 21, the term "written" is used to suggest the term "composed".

19. As per claim 23, the "...end-user programs utilize historical information in stored in a data container..." is taught by Knutson at col. 6, lines 56-59, col. 6, lines 51-55, and col. 12, lines 10-12.

20. As per claim 24, the "...execution of the end-user program..." is taught by Knutson at col. 40, lines 63-65 and col. 6, lines 56-59

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and the "...comprises executing a query on structured data to produce a result table..." is taught by Knutson at col. 40, lines 63-65, col. 8, lines 42-43, col. 39, lines 24-26, and col. 6, lines 11-14.

21. As per claim 25, the "...one or more actions are taken based on the data in the result table..." is taught by Knutson at col. 22, lines 22-31 and col. 6, lines 11-14.

22. As per claim 27, the "...action includes adding a pointer to a data container..." is taught by Knutson at col. 22, lines 22-31, col. 7, lines 63-67, col. 28, lines 63-67, and col. 12, lines 9-12.

23. As per claim 28, the "...action includes removing a pointer from a data container..." is taught by Knutson at col. 22, lines 22-31, col. 32, lines 15-17, col. 28, lines 63-67, and col. 12, lines 9-12.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

24. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to

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consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

25. Claims 3 and 4 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Knutson as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Bailey ("On-Event-Condition-Action Language for XML").

As per claim 3, the "...preferences are specified..." is taught by Knutson at col. 8, lines 11-13, but the "...using a plurality of ON (event) IF (condition) THEN (action) statements..." and the "...and one or more Boolean operators..." are not taught by Knutson.

However, Bailey teaches the use of on event if condition then action statements and the use of Boolean operators as follows"

"...On event if condition do actions. Rather than introducing yet another query language for XML, we use the XPath [32] and XQuery [33] languages to specify events, conditions and actions within our ECA rules. XPath is used in a number of W3C recommendations, such as XPointer, XSLT and XQuery itself, for selecting and matching parts of XML documents and so is well-suited to the requirements of ECA rules. XQuery is used in our ECA rules only where there is a need to be able to construct new fragments of XML. We define each of the components of our ECA rule language below, give some example rules, and describe the rule execution semantics..." at sec. 2.

"...The condition part of an ECA rule is either the constant TRUE, or one or more simple XPath expressions connected by the boolean connectives and, or, not..." at section 2.2.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention to combine Bailey with Knutson to use "on event if condition do actions" syntax and Boolean operators in order to use commonly accepted software systems and gain

greater acceptance from potential users. Knutson and Bailey have related applications. They teach the use of computers, the use of databases, the use of networks, the use of markup languages, the use of schema, the use of pointers, and the use of relationships. Knutson provides data stores, folders, links, relationships, and preferences and Bailey provides "on event if condition do actions" syntax and Boolean operators.

26. As per claim 4, the "...preferences are specified utilizing a graphical user interface...", is taught by Knutson at col. 8, lines 11-13 and col. 5, lines 56-59.

27. Claims 17 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Knutson as applied to claims 1 and 18 above respectively, and further in view of Ku et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,532,471).

As per claim 17, the "...preferences...", is taught by Knutson at col. 8, lines 11-13,
the "...such that they can be dragged, dropped..." is taught by Knutson at col. 21, lines 20-23,
the "...amongst folders...", is taught by Knutson at col. 8, lines 1-6,
but the "...are manifested as physical entities..."
and the "...cut, and pasted...", are not taught by Knutson.

However, Ku teaches the cutting and pasting of physical entities as follows:

"...Objects are actually abstractions of physical entities or conceptual items..." at col. 1, lines 50-51.

"...The user may review the full interface definition language of the object, save the IDL or cut-and-paste it to another program such as a code editor for compiling...", at col. 5, lines 32-35.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention to combine Ku with Knutson to cut and paste physical entities in order to use commonly accepted means of moving and copying information through a graphical user interface and gain greater acceptance from potential users. Knutson and Ku have related applications. They teach the use of computers, the use of databases, the use of networks, the use of pointers, the use of relationships, and the use of entities. Knutson provides data stores, folders, links, relationships, and preferences and Ku provides the cutting and pasting of physical entities.

28. As per claim 29, the "...end-user programs..." is taught by Knutson at col. 6, lines 56-59, the "...are manifested as physical entities..." is taught by Ku at col. 1, lines 50-51, the "...that end-users can drag, drop..." is taught by Knutson at col. 4, lines 49-50 and col. 21, lines 20-23, the "...cut, and paste..." is taught by Ku at col. 5, lines 32-35, and the "...within data containers..." is taught by Knutson at col. 12, lines 9-12.

29. Claims 19, 20, and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Knutson as applied to claims 1 and 18 above respectively, and further in view of Thuraisingham (U.S. Patent No. 5,481,700).

As per claim 19, the "...end-user programs are written..." is taught by Knutson at col. 6, lines 56-59 and col. 41, lines 66-67, but the "...using propositional logic..." is not taught by Knutson.

However, Thuraisingham teaches the use of propositional logic as follows:

"...In this section, we develop a propositional logic for multilevel environments..." at col. 4, lines 13-14.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention to combine Thuraisingham with Knutson to use propositional logic in order to use means of supporting multilevel databases and provide greater system utility for potential users. Knutson and Thuraisingham have related applications. They teach the use of computers, the use of databases, the use of networks, the use of schema, and the use of relationships. Knutson provides data stores, folders, links, relationships, and preferences and Thuraisingham provides propositional logic.

30. As per claim 20, the "...end-user programs are written..." is taught by Knutson at col. 6, lines 56-59 and col. 41, lines 66-67 and the "...utilizing predicate logic..." is taught by Thuraisingham at col. 7, lines 63-65 and col. 4, lines 13-14.

31. As per claim 22, the "...end-user programs are constrained..." is taught by Knutson at col. 6, lines 56-59 and col. 8, lines 65-67 and the "...by a logic schema..." is taught by Thuraisingham at col. 4, lines 13-14 and col. 11, lines 62-65.

32. Claims 30-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Knutson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,870,746), Watters (U.S. Patent No. 6,490,718), and Saxe (U.S. Patent No. 6,343,376).

31. Knutson renders obvious independent claim 30 by the following:
"...writing user preferences..." at col. 15, lines 59-62 and col. 8, lines 11-13.

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“...in accordance with a developer schema...” at col. 3, lines 48-53 and col. 3, lines 26-29.

“...executing user preferences in response to an event...” at col. 10, lines 25-26, col. 8, lines 11-13, col. 8, lines 53-54, and col. 44, lines 62-64.

In claim 30, the term “analyst” is used to suggest the term “developer”. Knutson does not teach the use of named groups of data and the use of conditionally valid preferences.

32. However, Watters teaches the use of named groups of data as follows:
“...with respect to one or more named groups of data...” at col. 1, lines 27-30.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention to combine Watters with Knutson to use named groups of data in order to associate control information with the groups of related data. Knutson and Watters have related applications. They teach the use of computers, the use of data files, the use of networks, and the use of entities. Knutson provides data stores, schema, events, and preferences and Watters provides named groups of data.

Knutson does not teach the use of conditionally valid preferences.

33. However, Saxe teaches the use of conditionally valid preferences as follows:
“...and taking action based on a conditionally valid preference...” at col. 10, lines 23-29, col. 1, lines 66-67, col. 2, lines 1-2, and col. 22, lines 36-39.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention to combine Saxe with Knutson and Watters to use conditionally valid preferences in order

to use context to analyze potential actions upon occurrence of events. Knutson, Watters, and Saxe have related applications. They teach the use of computers and the use of data files and Knutson and Saxe teach the use of databases, the use of links, the use of pointers, the use of relationships and the taking of actions. Knutson provides data stores, schema, events, and preferences, Watters provides named groups of data, and Saxe provides conditionally valid preferences. In claim 30, the term "choice" is used to suggest the term "preference".

34. As per claim 31, the "...events are received from a plurality of event sources..." is taught by Knutson at col. 44, lines 62-64, col. 15, lines 64-66, and col. 30, lines 10-13.

35. As per claim 32, the "...event source..." is taught by Knutson at col. 44, lines 62-64 and col. 30, lines 10-13, the "...is a named group of data..." is taught by Watters at col. 1, lines 27-30, and the "...and the event is a change in the data associated therewith..." is taught by Knutson at col. 44, lines 62-64, col. 31, lines 41-45, and col. 29, lines 56-59.

36. As per claim 33, the "...preference execution comprises translating end-user specified preferences into queries..." is taught by Knutson at col. 40, lines 62-65, col. 6, lines 63-66, col. 62, lines 36-37, col. 8, lines 11-13, and col. 8, lines 41-43 and the "...and executing queries on structured data..." is taught by Knutson at col. 16, lines 32-35 and col. 39, lines 24-26.

37. As per claim 34, the "...named group of data..." is taught by Watters at col. 1, lines 27-30

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and the "...can be used as a constant argument to a condition or action..." is taught by Knutson at col. 16, lines 26-28, col. 17, lines 15-18, and col. 22, lines 22-31.

38. As per claim 35, the "...taking action corresponds to including a data file..." is taught by Knutson at col. 22, lines 22-31, col. 36, lines 43-45, and col. 36, lines 30-32

and the "...into a named group of data..." is taught by Watters at col. 1, lines 27-30.

39. As per claim 36, the "...taking action corresponds to excluding a data file..." is taught by Knutson at col. 22, lines 22-31, col. 32, lines 15-17, and col. 36, lines 30-32

and the "...from a named group of data..." is taught by Watters at col. 1, lines 27-30.

40. As per claim 37, the "...computer readable medium having stored thereon computer executable instructions for carrying out the method of claim 32..." is taught by Knutson is Figure 27.

Response to Arguments

41. Applicants' arguments filed 17 June 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. In the first argument for independent claims 1 and 18 on page 7, paragraph 3, the Applicants state:

"Applicants' claimed invention relates to an information agent system, application and methodology wherein the information agent system, for instance, provides a platform for executing information agent applications. The information agent applications that are supplied can then be programmed, for example, by end-users and employed as end-user executive assistants or agents. Independent claims 1 and 18 recite similar limitations, namely: *a plurality of folders comprising links to particular data files stored in the data storage component, the content of the folders being controlled at least in part by end user specified preferences, the folders include any type of link collection defined by a set of relationships*. Knutson et al. does not disclose or suggest these exemplary features of the invention as claimed.

The Examiner disagrees. The Knutson reference inherently describes each an every limitation and the elements of each limitation for independent claims 1 and 18. Knutson teaches “a plurality of folders comprising links to particular data files stored in the data storage component” as follows:

“...Client subsystem 12 includes log-in module 50, **folder management subsystem** 54, segment builder 55A, measure builder 55B and measure relationship builder 55C, analyst definition subsystem 56, InfoFrame viewing subsystem 53 and MDT Administrator interface...” at col. 8, lines 1-6.

“...The same message code should be **linked** into both the sending and receiving processes...” at col. 44, lines 13-14.

“...Database computer 34 includes one or more **storage** media 36 containing **data** warehouse 24...” at col. 7, lines 53-54.

Figure 1 shows that the folder management subsystem uses the data warehouse as a repository for data files. Kuntson also teaches that in the folder management system “a folder management system stores a list of child folders...” (at col. 8, lines 51-52) which could be implemented by links to the child folders. Knutson teaches the second limitation, “the content of the folders being controlled at least in part by end user specified preferences” as follows:

“...The mdt_Message abstract base class defines the object that holds the **content** of an MDT interprocess message...” at col. 43, lines 66-67.

“...Finally, **control** returns from csm_receiveProcess::Receive() to the caller...” at col. 45, lines 30-31.

“...Drill Down partitions may be **specified by** the **user** in the analyst definition...” at col. 62, lines 36-37.

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"...During logon, log-in module 50 verifies a user's name and password and then retrieves any **user preferences** that may have been earlier defined..." at col. 8, lines 11-11-13.

The first two teachings in this section for the second limitation refer to the contents and control of messages, the third teaching shows that the system is interactive and accepts user entry and the fourth teaching shows that users may specify preferences. These user preferences are used by the folder management subsystem, which is taught for the first limitation. The folders might contain messages since independent claims 1 and 18 do not limit the contents of the folders. Finally, Kuntson teaches the third limitation, "the folders include any type of link collection defined by a set of relationships" as follows:

"...This kind of metadata 25 is used to generate supporting information for a InfoFrame or, alternatively, alert the user to trends that run counter to the **set of Measure Relationships...**" at col. 12, lines 58-63.

A set of measure relationships is a set of relationships. This set of relationships is used by the data warehouse, which is used as the storage media identified in the response to the argument for the first limitation. The folder management subsystem might use links to the child folders. In fact, independent claims 1 and 18 state that "the folders include any type of link...", which could include any of the types of links taught by Knutson. The Applicants arguments on page 8, page 9, and page 10, paragraphs 1-3 have been addressed in the response to the first argument on page 7, paragraph 3.

42. In the second argument for claims 3 and 4 on page 10, paragraph 4, the Applicants state:

"Claims 3 and 4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Knutson et al. as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Bailey ("An-Event-Condition-Action Language for XML"). Reversal of this rejection is requested for at least

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the following reasons. Claims 3 and 4 depend from independent claim 1; and Bailey does not cure the aforementioned deficiencies of Knutson et al. with respect to independent claim 1. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 3 and 4 is requested."

The Examiner disagrees. Since the response to the first argument has shown that Knutson anticipates independent claim 1, there is no additional requirement that Bailey render obvious claim 1. Since claims 3 and 4 are dependent on independent claim 1 and no additional arguments have been provided for either claims 3 or 4 then claims 3 and 4 are still rendered obvious by the combination of Knutson and Bailey.

43. In the third argument for claims 17 and 29 on page 11, paragraph 1, the Applicants state:

"Claims 17 and 29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Knutson et al. as applied to claims 1 and 18 above respectively, and further in view of Ku et al. (US 6,532,471). Withdrawal of this rejection is requested for at least the following reasons. Claims 17 and 29 depend from independent claims 1 and 18 respectively, and Ku et al. fails to make up for the aforementioned deficiencies of Knutson et al. with respect to independent claims 1 and 18. Accordingly, it is believed that claims 17 and 29 are in condition for allowance and that this rejection should be reversed."

The Examiner disagrees. Since the response to the first argument has shown that Knutson anticipates independent claims 1 and 18, there is no additional requirement that Ku render obvious claims 1 and 18. Since claims 17 and 29 are dependent on independent claims 1 and 18, respectively and no additional arguments have been provided for either claims 17 or 29 then claims 17 and 29 are still rendered obvious by the combination of Knutson and Ku.

44. In the fourth argument for claims 19, 20, and 22 on page 11, paragraph 2, the Applicants state:

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"Claims 19, 20 and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Knutson et al. as applied to claim 18 above, and further in view of Thuraisingham (US 5,481,700). This rejection should be withdrawn for at least the following reasons. Claims 19, 20 and 22 depend from independent claim 18, and Thuraisingham does not rectify the deficiencies presented by Knutson et al. with respect to such claim. Accordingly, reversal of this rejection is respectfully requested."

The Examiner disagrees. Since the response to the first argument has shown that Knutson anticipates independent claim 18, there is no additional requirement that Thuraisingham render obvious claim 18. Since claims 19, 20 and 22 are dependent on independent claim 18 and no additional arguments have been provided for either claims 19, 20 or 22 then claims 19, 20 and 22 are still rendered obvious by the combination of Knutson and Thuraisingham.

45. In the fifth argument for independent claim 30 on page 12, paragraph 3, the Applicants state:

"The Examiner contends that Knutson et al. teaches *writing user preferences* at col. 13, lines 32-36 and col. 8, lines 11-13. Col. 13, lines 32-36 pertains to writing new Segments into a data warehouse, rather than writing user preferences as recited in the subject claim. Further, col. 8, lines 11-13, relates to a log-in module that verifies a user's name and password and then retrieves any user preferences that may have been defined earlier. Although col. 13, lines 32-36 discloses a writing element and col. 8, lines 11-13 provides a user preferences element, the combination of the two does not disclose writing user preferences because there is no logical relationship between the writing of new Segments as disclosed in col. 13, lines 32-36 and the user preferences that are accessed by the log-in module as provided by col. 8, lines 11-13. It is therefore submitted that the Examiner is misconstruing both the cited document and claims under consideration beyond the bounds of reasonable interpretation in order to substantiate the rejection.

The Examiner disagrees. Knutson teaches writing user preferences as follows:

"...In addition, when a **user specifies** new Business Concepts and indicates that he wants them saved, metadata load and update module 78 **writes** them back into data warehouse 24 for future use..." at col. 15, lines 59-62.

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"...During logon, log-in module 50 verifies a user's name and password and then retrieves any **user preferences** that may have been earlier defined..." at col. 8, lines 11-13.

It is quite clear from these teachings that a user specifies user preferences, which are written to memory and later retrieved by the system when the user logs on.

46. In the sixth argument for independent claim 30 on page 12, paragraph 4 and page 13, paragraph 1, the Applicants state:

"The Examiner further asserts that Knutson et al., at col. 3, lines 48-53 and col. 7, lines 11-13, provides *in accordance with a developer schema*. Col. 3, lines 48-53 provides that an Analyst specifies an event in the data that must trigger an Alert; or specifies the type of analysis and the business measures and segments to be reported on in an InfoFrame, and optionally the schedule on which this InfoFrame is to be generated or the event in the data that must trigger the InfoFrame. Col. 7, lines 11-13, discloses that a DSM (Data and Schema Manipulation) subsystem reads schema from a data warehouse, creates data views and creates a mapping between the two. How these two disparate and unconnected citations can be combined to teach in accordance with a developer schema is quite beyond applicants' representative's comprehension. While it is acknowledged that the word "schema" does appear within the ambit of col. 7, lines 11-13, the schema so disclosed has no relation whatsoever with the Analyst specified event as provided in col. 3, lines 48-53. This leads applicants' representative to once again assert that the Examiner is straining the bounds of reasonableness and is, gravely misconstruing the cited document in order for it to conform to a perception that is untenable based on the teachings of Knutson et al.

The Examiner disagrees. Knutson teaches the use of developer schema as follows:

"...An **Analyst specifies** an event in the data which must trigger an Alert; or specifies the type of analysis and the business measures and segments to be reported on in an InfoFrame, and optionally the schedule on which this InfoFrame is to be generated or the event in the data which must trigger the InfoFrame..." at col. 3, lines 48-53.

Referring now to FIG. 1, system 10 includes four major subsystems: client subsystem 12, data abstraction intelligence (DAI) subsystem 14, data and **schema** manipulation (DSM) subsystem 16, and scheduler subsystem 18..." at col. 3, lines 26-29.

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It is clear that an analyst has specified important parts of the system. Schema do not suddenly appear out of thin air. It is generally one of the roles of analysts to specify schema.

47. In the seventh argument for independent claim 30 on page 13, paragraph 2, the Applicants state:

"Moreover, the Examiner asserts that Knutson et al. provides *executing user preferences in response to an event* at col. 10, lines 25-26, col. 8, lines 11-13, col. 8, lines 53-54 and col. 44, lines 62-64. Col. 10, lines 25-26 provide that a Scheduled Analysis will be submitted to a server for execution at a later date or periodic execution. Col. 8, lines 11-13 disclose a log-in module that verifies a user's name and password and then retrieves any user preferences that may have been defined earlier. Col. 8, lines 53-54 state that folder objects are created and deleted by a folder management subsystem in response to user requests, and col. 44, lines 62-64 provide a set of events that occur as a message is transmitted from one process to another using MDT (Management Discovery Tool) typed stream handles and a message registry. While it is acknowledged that a Scheduled Analysis is submitted to a server for execution; that a log-in module retrieves user preferences; that folder objects are created and deleted by a folder management subsystem at the behest of a user; and that a set of events that occur as a message are transmitted between two processes, the foregoing does not teach or suggest executing user preferences in response to an event. In fact nowhere in Knutson et al. is the execution of user preferences in response to an event taught or suggested. Thus it is submitted there is no rational basis within the teachings of Knutson et al. to substantiate this rejection."

The Examiner disagrees. Knutson teaches this limitation as follows:

"...Scheduled Analysts will be submitted to the server for **execution** at a later date or periodic execution..." at col. 10, lines 25-56.

"...During logon, log-in module 50 verifies a user's name and password and then retrieves any **user preferences** that may have been earlier defined..." at col. 10, lines 48-53.

"...Folder objects are created and deleted by folder management subsystem 54 **in response** to user requests..." at col. 8, lines 53-54.

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"...When the trigger time period occurs, the Scheduler 18 traverses its list 2901 of triggered **events**..." at col. 66. lines 58-59.

This limitation is inherent to an operation of a system. Knutson teaches all of the elements of this limitation. The execution of a process will occur in response to a triggered event. It should be noted that during the execution of a process for an event, the process will use the defined user preferences in place of default values furnished with the system. A user request could be considered an event.

48. In the eighth argument for independent claim 30 on page 13, paragraph 3, the Applicants state:

"In relation to the secondary and tertiary documents cited by the Examiner, it is submitted that neither makeup, either alone or in combination, for the aforementioned deficiencies of Knutson et al. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection with respect to independent claim 30, and associated dependent claims, is requested."

The Examiner disagrees. The responses to the fifth, sixth, and seventh arguments have shown the Knutson teaches the limitations, which are attributed to Knutson. Since the Applicants have not challenged the teachings of Watters and Saxe the Examiner assumes that the Applicants agree that the limitation, "...with respect to one or more named groups of data..." is taught by Watters and the limitation, "...and taking action based on a conditionally valid preference..." is taught by Saxe are indeed taught by Watters and Saxe. There is no requirement that either Watters or Saxe teach the limitations already taught by Knutson. Since no additional arguments have been provided for the associated dependent claims then the associated dependent claims are also rendered obvious.

Conclusion

49. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

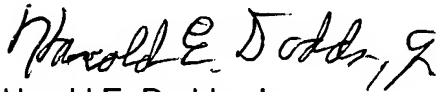
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

50. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Harold E. Dodds, Jr. whose telephone number is (571)-272-4110. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 8:00 - 4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John E. Breene can be reached on (571)-272-4107. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Harold E. Dodds, Jr.

Patent Examiner

August 29, 2005



GREYA ROBINSON
PRIMARY EXAMINER